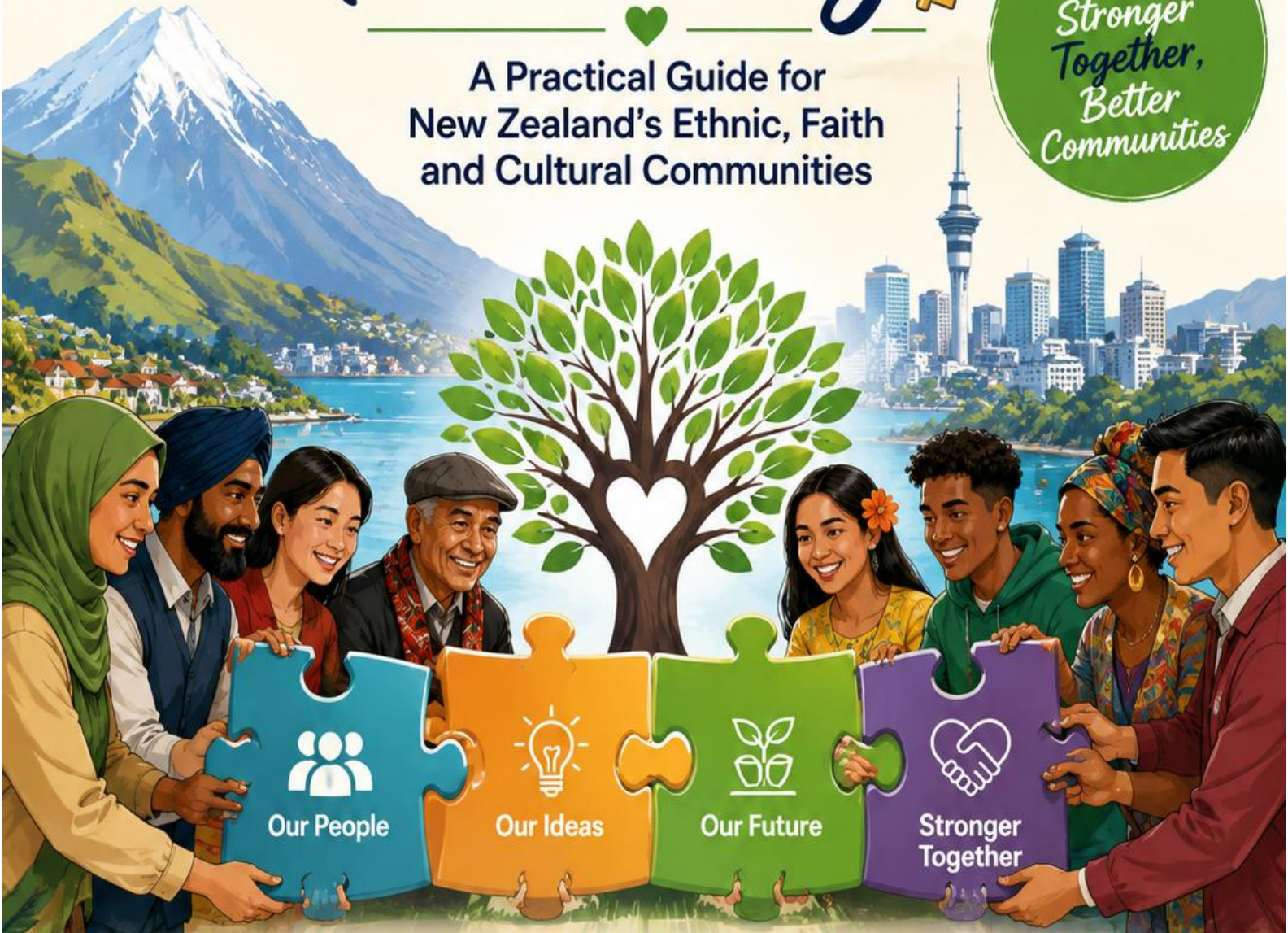
Unlocking Community Funding

A Practical Guide for New Zealand's Ethnic, Faith and Cultural Communities

Stronger Together, Better Communities



Find Funding Opportunities

Plan & Prepare Your Application

Build Stronger Communities

Sustainable Impact

Information • Guidance • Support • Success

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The information in this handbook is provided as general guidance only. Funding criteria, dates, amounts, and contact details may change, and readers should confirm current information directly with the relevant funding provider.

Important Notice

Funding information changes frequently. This directory is a practical starting point, not a substitute for the live rules published by each funder. Opening dates, eligibility, priorities, available budgets and contact details can change without notice. Always confirm details on the official website before spending significant time on an application.

The phrase “complete” describes the directory’s broad national coverage. No publication can guarantee inclusion of every private trust, donor-advised fund, local campaign or one-off government program. This edition prioritises established and publicly identifiable funders relevant to New Zealand community organisations.

Typical success rates are included only where publicly available. Where a funder does not publish a reliable rate, the directory states this rather than inventing a figure.

How to Use

- Start with your project, not the funder: define the need, beneficiaries, outcomes, budget and timing.
- Use the category and regional index to identify a short list of suitable funders.
- Read the live eligibility rules and exclusions before contacting the funder.
- For large or unusual requests, speak with a funding adviser before applying.
- Tailor every application. A copied generic application is easy to reject.
- Record all deadlines, reporting dates and relationship contacts in a funding tracker.

Dedication

Dedicated first and foremost to Allah, the Creator, the All-Powerful, the Provider, the All-Wise, the Most Merciful, and the Most Generous.

He created the heavens and the earth, the vast universe whose true depth and greatness remain far beyond human understanding. He created humanity, gave us knowledge, ability, compassion, and the means to serve one another.

It is by His will that thousands of volunteers, trustees, committee members, and community leaders across New Zealand's ethnic, faith, and cultural communities are able to give their time, energy, skills, and hearts in service to others.

This handbook is only a small human effort. May Allah accept it as an act of sincere service, place benefit and barakah in it, and allow it to support those who work tirelessly for His creation.

May He guide this work, forgive its shortcomings, and make it a means of strengthening communities, helping those in need, and leaving a lasting benefit for generations to come.

All praise belongs to Allah, the Lord of all worlds.

Foreword

Communities are built by people, but they are sustained by opportunity. Throughout my years working alongside ethnic and faith communities across New Zealand, I have seen extraordinary volunteers achieve remarkable things with very limited resources. I have also seen inspiring projects never progress simply because organisations did not know where to find funding or felt overwhelmed by the application process. This handbook was born from that experience...

Preface

Across New Zealand, thousands of volunteers dedicate their time, energy, and resources to strengthening ethnic, faith, and culturally diverse communities. They organise cultural festivals, language schools, youth programmes, women's groups, leadership initiatives, sporting events, refugee support, interfaith activities, and countless other projects that help preserve identity, build belonging, and strengthen social cohesion.

Yet behind almost every successful community initiative is the same challenge "**funding**."

Many organisations operate on limited budgets and rely almost entirely on volunteers. Community leaders often spend countless hours trying to raise enough money simply to keep programmes running. While New Zealand offers hundreds of funding opportunities through government agencies, local councils, philanthropic trusts, gaming societies, corporate foundations, iwi organisations, and international donors, many of these opportunities remain unknown or underutilised.

Some organisations are unaware that funding exists for their projects. Others feel overwhelmed by application forms, uncertain about eligibility, or discouraged by the perception that grant writing is too difficult or only for large organisations. As a result, many worthwhile community initiatives are delayed, reduced in scope, or never begin at all.

This directory was created to help change that.

Drawing on years of experience working with communities, government agencies, and funding programmes, this handbook has been designed as a practical, easy-to-follow resource for community leaders, volunteers, committees, charities, incorporated societies, faith organisations, and emerging groups across New Zealand.

Rather than simply listing funding providers, this directory explains **who funds what, who is eligible, how to apply, what information is usually required, and where to find further support**. It also provides practical grant-writing advice, planning tools, checklists, and examples to make the funding process less intimidating and more achievable.

This handbook is not only about finding money it is about helping communities grow stronger, become more sustainable, and continue delivering services that enrich the lives of people throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

If this directory gives just one organisation the confidence to apply for funding, enables one volunteer to continue serving their community, or helps one worthwhile project become a reality, then it will have achieved its purpose.

I sincerely hope this resource empowers organisations of every size and background to access the opportunities available, strengthen their communities, and continue making a positive difference for generations to come.

Habib Marwat, QSM
Christchurch, New Zealand

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Part 1 – Funding in Aotearoa New Zealand

1.1 The Funding Landscape

New Zealand community funding is a mixed ecosystem. Central government agencies and Crown entities fund public outcomes; councils fund local priorities; Lottery and gaming societies distribute gambling proceeds; community trusts and foundations invest regional wealth and donor gifts; iwi and Māori organisations support whānau, hapū and tribal priorities; companies provide sponsorship and charitable support; and international bodies fund selected global or Pacific outcomes. The best funding plan usually combines several sources rather than relying on one grant.

1.2 Grants, Contracts, Donations and Sponsorship

A grant is generally a contribution toward an approved purpose. A contract purchases defined services and normally carries stronger performance obligations. A donation may have fewer restrictions, although charitable purpose and reporting expectations still apply. Sponsorship is a commercial exchange: the sponsor expects brand exposure, access, goodwill or another agreed benefit. Confusing these categories causes weak applications and compliance problems.

1.3 Funding Is Not Entitlement

Meeting eligibility rules does not create a right to funding. Most funds receive more eligible requests than they can support. Assessors compare need, strategic fit, governance, value for money, risk, evidence and available budget. A technically eligible application can still be declined because another proposal is stronger or the funding pool is exhausted.

1.4 Equity and Te Tiriti

Public and philanthropic funders increasingly expect applicants to understand inequity, cultural safety and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This should not be treated as decorative language. Explain how Māori have participated in design, how outcomes respond to Māori aspirations where relevant, how data will be handled appropriately, and how decision-making is shared.

1.5 Regional and National Benefit

A national organisation should not assume that national reach is automatically more valuable. Local funders often priorities depth of impact in a defined community. Conversely, national funds may reject a proposal whose reach is too narrow. State the geographic scope accurately and choose the funder whose mandate matches it.

Part 2 – Application Readiness and Governance

2.1 Minimum Organisational Readiness

Before applying, an organisation should know its legal name, registration status, charitable purpose, officers, bank account, financial position, conflicts of interest and authority to submit. Many applications fail before assessment because documentation is outdated or inconsistent.

2.2 Legal Structures

Common structures include incorporated societies, charitable trusts, companies with charitable purposes, marae entities and informal groups. Some funds accept informal groups for small grants; others require a legal entity and may permit an umbrella organisation. Use an umbrella arrangement only with a written agreement covering responsibilities, fees, insurance, tax, reporting and ownership of assets.

2.3 Governance Evidence

Funders may request a constitution or trust deed, current officer list, minutes approving the application, strategic plan, policies and recent annual reports. Good governance means more than having documents. Assessors look for active oversight, financial controls, conflict management, risk awareness and clear separation between governance and operations.

2.4 Financial Readiness

Prepare current financial statements, a recent bank statement, an approved annual budget, evidence of reserves, GST status and explanations for deficits or unusual transactions. A large unexplained cash balance can weaken a request; so, can an organisation with no contingency and repeated deficits.

2.5 Safeguarding and Safety

Projects involving children, vulnerable adults, transport, food, sport, health or public events need relevant safeguarding and safety systems. Depending on the activity, funders may expect police vetting, child protection, health and safety, incident reporting, insurance, risk assessment and trained staff.

2.6 Privacy and Data

Collect only information you genuinely need. Explain consent, access, storage, retention, disposal and reporting. Do not promise anonymity if your procedures cannot provide it. Avoid collecting sensitive personal information merely to make the application appear rigorous.

Part 3 – Building a Fundable Project

3.1 Define the Problem

A weak project begins with an activity: “we want to run workshops.” A strong project begins with a documented need: who is affected, what is happening, why existing responses are insufficient and what evidence supports this conclusion. Use local data, service records, consultation and credible research.

3.2 Identify Beneficiaries

Do not write “the whole community” unless that is genuinely true. Specify age, location, cultural group, circumstances, expected numbers and barriers to access. Distinguish direct participants from wider audiences and avoid double-counting.

3.3 Co-design

Co-design is not a survey conducted after the plan is finished. It means involving intended beneficiaries in identifying the problem, selecting the approach, shaping delivery and reviewing results. Describe who participated, what changed because of their input and how their role will continue.

3.4 Outcomes Before Activities

An activity is what you do. An output is the immediate quantity delivered. An outcome is the change that occurs. For example: activity—six workshops; output—90 participants; short-term outcome—participants understand local support options; longer-term outcome—earlier help-seeking and reduced crisis escalation.

3.5 Delivery Plan

A credible plan identifies tasks, dates, responsibility, dependencies and decision points. Include recruitment, procurement, communications, delivery, monitoring, reporting and close-out. Funders notice when applicants budget for an event but forget venue set up, accessibility, health and safety, evaluation or reporting.

3.6 Partnerships

Name partners only when they have agreed. Explain each partner’s contribution: referrals, venue, expertise, staff, cash, data, promotion or governance. Attach letters that confirm specific commitments rather than generic praise.

3.7 Sustainability

Sustainability does not always mean continuing forever. It can mean maintaining benefits, transferring skills, reusing resources, integrating a service into existing operations or developing a realistic future income plan. Do not promise self-sufficiency when the model will remain grant dependent.

Part 4 – Writing a Strong Application

4.1 Answer the Question Asked

Assessors score the form in front of them, not the project you wish they had asked for. Use the funder's language and answer every part of each question. Do not hide key information in an attachment unless the form directs you there.

4.2 Strong Opening Paragraph

Open with the need, who benefits, what will change, where and when. Avoid long organisational history. A strong opening lets the assessor understand the proposal within thirty seconds.

4.3 Evidence and Human Meaning

Numbers establish scale; a brief anonymised example can show human meaning. Use both but never invent data or exploit personal stories. Obtain consent where a person could be identified.

4.4 Plain Language

Clear writing is not simplistic writing. Use short sentences, concrete verbs and defined terms. Remove slogans, exaggerated claims and unnecessary adjectives. Replace "empower transformative resilience" with the specific change you will deliver.

4.5 Demonstrating Strategic Fit

Quote or paraphrase the relevant funding priority and immediately show how the project advances it. Do not paste the funder's entire strategy. One precise link is stronger than a page of borrowed language.

4.6 Explaining Risk

Every serious project has risks. A statement that there are no risks suggests weak planning. Identify realistic operational, financial, safety, reputational, privacy and delivery risks, then explain controls, responsibility and escalation.

4.7 The Final Review

Use a reviewer who was not involved in drafting. Ask them to identify the need, beneficiaries, outcome, amount requested and delivery plan after one reading. If they cannot, the application is not ready.

Part 5 – Budgets, Outcomes and Evaluation

5.1 Building the Budget

Start with the delivery plan and cost every necessary input. Use current quotes for major purchases. State whether amounts include GST. Separate confirmed income, pending applications, organisation contribution and in-kind support. Ensure the request in the form matches the request in the budget.

5.2 Eligible and Ineligible Costs

Eligibility differs by fund. Common exclusions include retrospective costs, debt repayment, alcohol, prizes, private benefit, overseas travel, political activity and costs incurred before approval. Never assume a normal operating cost is eligible.

5.3 Value for Money

The cheapest proposal is not automatically the best value. Explain cost per participant where useful, volunteer or partner contributions, asset lifespan, quality requirements and why the chosen approach is proportionate.

5.4 Measurement

Use a small number of meaningful indicators. Combine delivery data, participant feedback and evidence of change. Avoid collecting more data than staff can analyse. Define baseline, target, source, frequency and responsibility.

5.5 Evaluation

For a small grant, evaluation may be attendance, feedback and a reflective review. For a large multi-year programme, funders may expect an evaluation framework, independent expertise or mixed methods. Match evaluation cost and complexity to the project.

5.6 Reporting and Accountability

Grant approval is the beginning of accountability, not the end. Record expenditure against the approved budget, retain invoices, monitor outcomes, notify the funder of material changes and submit reports on time. Poor reporting can damage future eligibility across multiple funders.

Part 6 – Funder Profiles

This section contains 115 funder profiles. Information is summarised for screening purposes. Always use the official source before applying.

1. Community Matters – Department of Internal Affairs

Central government | National

Purpose	A central portal for Lottery, Crown and trust funding administered by Hāpai Hapori. Includes COGS, Lottery Community, Ethnic Communities Development Fund, Oranga Marae and other programmes.
Who may apply	Not-for-profit organisations, community groups, hapū, iwi and, for selected funds, individuals.
Funding range	Varies by fund; from small local grants to major multi-year awards.
Opening/closing dates	Always check the live calendar on their website.
Contact	0800 824 824; community.matters@dia.govt.nz
Success rates / records	Funding records are published for several programmes. Public success rate percentages are generally not published.
Application insight	Use the online eligibility tool and speak with a Community Advisor before preparing a major application.

Official website: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

2. Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)

Central government | National/local committees

Purpose	One-off grants for non-profit community groups delivering community-based social services, projects and events.
Who may apply	Community organisations with a clear local benefit; legal status requirements depend on request size and circumstances.
Funding range	Often small to medium grants; published records show many awards in the low thousands, with some larger grants.
Opening/closing dates	Usually an annual round; consult the DIA funding calendar.
Contact	0800 824 824
Success rates / records	DIA publishes local committee grant records, which are useful for benchmarking request size.
Application insight	Demonstrate local need, practical delivery capability, community support and a realistic itemised budget.

Official website: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/community-organisations-grants-scheme

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

3. Lottery Community

Lottery | Regional and national

Purpose	Supports not-for-profit organisations improving community wellbeing, including operating costs, projects and some multi-year support.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit legal entities; multi-year applicants generally need a track record and sound governance.
Funding range	Varies widely. Published records include grants from about $10,000 to $100,000 or more, depending on region and priority.
Opening/closing dates	Rounds and committee structure changed from 1 July 2026; use the current funding calendar.
Contact	0800 824 824
Success rates / records	Grant records are published; overall success rates are not consistently published.
Application insight	Explain who benefits, why the work matters now, how outcomes will be measured, and what other income supports the service.

Official website: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-community

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

4. Lottery Community Facilities

Lottery | National

Purpose	Funds feasibility work, upgrades and new community facilities that benefit communities, hapū and iwi.
Who may apply	Not-for-profit organisations, hapū and iwi with appropriate governance, ownership or long-term access arrangements.
Funding range	Project-dependent; can support feasibility studies and significant capital works.
Opening/closing dates	Opens in scheduled rounds; the fund may be closed between rounds.
Contact	0800 824 824
Success rates / records	Success rates are not routinely published.
Application insight	Provide evidence of demand, ownership/lease security, consents, professional costings, maintenance planning and co-funding.

Official website: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-community-facilities

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

5. Ethnic Communities Development Fund

Central government | National

Purpose	Supports projects that strengthen ethnic communities, participation, capability, inclusion and social cohesion.
Who may apply	Eligible community organisations and groups serving New Zealand's ethnic communities.
Funding range	Varies by round and stream; check current guidance.
Opening/closing dates	Opening and closing dates are listed on Community Matters.
Contact	0800 824 824
Success rates / records	Public success-rate data is limited; funded-project announcements may be available.
Application insight	Show direct community leadership, broad benefits, partnerships, safeguarding and outcomes beyond a one-off celebration.

Official website: https://www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/funding/ethnic-communities-development-fund

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

6. Community and Volunteering Capability Fund

Central government | National

Purpose	Strengthens leadership, capability, volunteering and resilience across the community and voluntary sector.
Who may apply	Not-for-profit organisations delivering capability-building services or projects.
Funding range	Varies by stream and round.
Opening/closing dates	Check the DIA funding calendar.
Contact	0800 824 824
Success rates / records	Not routinely published.
Application insight	Focus on transferable capability, sector reach, equity, measurable improvement and sustainability after funding ends.

Official website: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/community-and-volunteering-capability-fund

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

7. Oranga Marae

Central government | National

Purpose	Supports marae development planning and cultural and physical revitalisation.
Who may apply	Marae communities; informal groups may be eligible for smaller grants, while larger grants generally require legal entity status.
Funding range	Under $10,000 may be available to eligible informal groups; larger requests require stronger entity and project evidence.
Opening/closing dates	Scheduled rounds; refer to Community Matters key dates.
Contact	0800 824 824
Success rates / records	Not routinely published.
Application insight	Start with marae development priorities, whānau mandate, governance readiness and realistic staged planning.

Official website: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/oranga-marae

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

8. Pacific Development and Conservation Trust

Statutory trust | Pacific region

Purpose	Supports charitable activities that advance peaceful economic, social, cultural and environmental development in the Pacific.
Who may apply	New Zealand and Pacific-based organisations and eligible projects meeting trust objectives.
Funding range	Approximately $250,000 distributed annually; grants commonly range from $2,000 to $50,000.
Opening/closing dates	Annual round; check current dates on Community Matters.
Contact	0800 824 824
Success rates / records	Not routinely published.
Application insight	Show Pacific partnership, local ownership, feasibility, enduring benefit and credible delivery arrangements.

Official website: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/pacific-development-and-conservation-trust-2

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

9. Racing Safety Development Fund

Central government | National

Purpose	Supports safety improvements at racecourses, including infrastructure and equipment that improve participant and public safety.
Who may apply	Eligible racing clubs and sector organisations.
Funding range	Project-dependent.
Opening/closing dates	Check Community Matters for current round dates.
Contact	0800 824 824
Success rates / records	Not routinely published.
Application insight	Provide safety evidence, technical scope, quotes, approvals and a clear maintenance plan.

Official website: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/racing-safety-development-fund

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

10. Safer Communities Fund

Central government | National

Purpose	Supports community safety initiatives where a current round is available.
Who may apply	Eligibility and priorities depend on the active funding round.
Funding range	Varies by round.
Opening/closing dates	Check live status; some programmes may be closed or targeted.
Contact	0800 824 824
Success rates / records	Not routinely published.
Application insight	Define the safety problem with evidence, identify affected groups, and show coordination with relevant agencies.

Official website: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/safer-communities-fund

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

11. Creative New Zealand – Arts Grants

Crown entity | National

Purpose	Supports artists, arts organisations, projects, development and access to the arts.
Who may apply	Artists, practitioners, collectives and eligible arts organisations; criteria vary by programme.
Funding range	From small development grants to significant organisational and project support.
Opening/closing dates	Multiple rounds and programmes across the year.
Contact	info@creativenz.govt.nz
Success rates / records	Some funding decisions and annual statistics are published.
Application insight	Make artistic outcomes specific, explain audience/community value, provide work samples and match the programme purpose exactly.

Official website: https://creativenz.govt.nz/funding-and-support

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

12. Sport New Zealand – Community Funding

Crown entity | National/regional

Purpose	Supports physical activity, play, active recreation and sport, often delivered through regional and national partners.
Who may apply	National and regional sport organisations, community providers and targeted partners; eligibility varies.
Funding range	Programme-dependent.
Opening/closing dates	Varies; some funds are contestable while others are partnership-based.
Contact	info@sportnz.org.nz
Success rates / records	Varies by programme.
Application insight	Align with participation, equity and wellbeing outcomes; include safeguarding and evidence of demand.

Official website: https://sportnz.org.nz/funding/how-we-invest/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

13. Ministry of Social Development – Community

Central government | National

Purpose	Funds social services, community initiatives and contracted outcomes for children, young people, families and vulnerable communities.
Who may apply	Providers meet the criteria of individual grants, procurement opportunities or contracts.
Funding range	From small grants to major service contracts.
Opening/closing dates	Varies; monitor funding and procurement pages.
Contact	0508 326 459
Success rates / records	Procurement and contract results may be published; success rates vary.
Application insight	Distinguish a grant from a service contract. Demonstrate safeguarding, workforce capability, evidence-based practice and outcome reporting.

Official website: https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/service-guidelines/index.html

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

14. Ministry for Culture and Heritage – Funding and Support

Central government | National

Purpose	Supports culture, heritage, commemorations, history, media and related development through specific programmes.
Who may apply	Eligibility differs by funds and may include organisations, iwi, communities, researchers and cultural institutions.
Funding range	Programme-dependent.
Opening/closing dates	Varies by programme.
Contact	info@mch.govt.nz
Success rates / records	Varies; some decisions are publicly announced.
Application insight	Connect the proposal to national or community cultural significance and demonstrate preservation, access and public value.

Official website: https://www.mch.govt.nz/search?query=Funding+and+Support

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

15. Ministry for Pacific Peoples – Funding

Central government | National

Purpose	Supports Pacific communities, language, wellbeing, capability, enterprise and community initiatives through periodic funds.
Who may apply	Pacific organisations, groups and providers; criteria vary by programme.
Funding range	Varies by round.
Opening/closing dates	Check current funding announcements.
Contact	contact@mpp.govt.nz
Success rates / records	Not consistently published.
Application insight	Ensure Pacific governance and leadership are visible and show how the project responds to community priorities.

Official website: https://www.mpp.govt.nz/funding/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

16. Ministry for Women – Grants and Funding

Central government | National

Purpose	Time to time Provides or promotes funding opportunities supporting women and girls, leadership, safety and participation.
Who may apply	Eligibility varies by current programme.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current opportunities, inquire for the future funds.
Contact	info@women.govt.nz
Success rates / records	Not consistently published.
Application insight	Use gender-disaggregated evidence and explain the practical change for women and girls.

Official website: https://www.women.govt.nz/contact-us

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

17. Ministry of Youth Development

Central government | National

Purpose	Supports youth development and youth-led initiatives, often through partner organisations and targeted funding.
Who may apply	Youth organisations, providers and eligible community groups; criteria vary.
Funding range	Programme-dependent.
Opening/closing dates	Check current opportunities.
Contact	myd@msd.govt.nz
Success rates / records	Varies by programme.
Application insight	Involve young people in design, governance and evaluation; avoid projects designed entirely by adults.

Official website: https://myd.govt.nz/funding/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

18. Ministry for the Environment – Environmental Funding

Central government | National

Purpose	Supports environmental restoration, waste minimisation, climate and biodiversity initiatives through specific funds.
Who may apply	Councils, iwi, community organisations, businesses and partnerships depending on the fund.
Funding range	From local project grants to large multi-year investments.
Opening/closing dates	Varies by fund.
Contact	info@mfe.govt.nz
Success rates / records	Varies; funded projects are often announced.
Application insight	Quantify environmental outcomes, permissions, technical capability, co-funding and long-term maintenance.

Official website: https://environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/funding/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

19. Te Puni Kōkiri – Investment and Funding

Central government | National

Purpose	Invests in Māori development, whānau wellbeing, housing, enterprise, culture, language and community capability.
Who may apply	Māori organisations, iwi, hapū, marae and eligible partners, depending on programme.
Funding range	Programme-dependent.
Opening/closing dates	Varies; contact regional office and monitor current funds.
Contact	0800 875 663
Success rates / records	Varies by programme.
Application insight	Engage regional staff early, demonstrate Māori governance and outcomes, and show alignment with whānau, hapū or iwi priorities.

Official website: https://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/a-matou-whakaarotau/maori-economic-development-growth/maori-development-fund

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

20. Lottery Minister's Discretionary Fund

Lottery | National

Purpose	Provides discretionary support for purposes consistent with Lottery funding where standard funds may not fit.
Who may apply	Eligibility is tightly assessed and discretionary.
Funding range	Case-dependent.
Opening/closing dates	No standard open round; enquiries should be made through DIA.
Contact	0800 824 824
Success rates / records	Not published.
Application insight	Use only where there is a clear exceptional case and explain why existing funds are unsuitable.

Official website: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-fund

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

21. Rātā Foundation

Community trust | Canterbury, Nelson, Marlborough, Chatham Islands

Purpose	Supports equitable, sustainable and connected communities through regional funding priorities.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations operating in the foundation's regions.
Funding range	Varies by programme; operating, project and capability support may be available.
Opening/closing dates	Multiple opportunities; check current funding timetable.
Contact	03 335 0305
Success rates / records	Annual reporting provides portfolio information; application success rates may not be published by round.
Application insight	Read the regional strategy, request only what is essential, and demonstrate relationships with communities most affected.

Official website: https://ratafoundation.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

22. Foundation North

Community trust | Auckland and Northland

Purpose	Supports communities across Tāmaki Makaurau and Te Tai Tokerau with a focus on equity, regeneration and systems change.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations and community initiatives in the region.
Funding range	From small grants to significant multi-year investments.
Opening/closing dates	Programme-dependent and often open on a rolling or scheduled basis.
Contact	09 360 0291
Success rates / records	Annual reports publish grants and strategic information.
Application insight	Show regional relevance, community leadership, equity and the longer-term change the work contributes to.

Official website: https://www.foundationnorth.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

23. Trust Waikato

Community trust | Waikato

Purpose	Funds community wellbeing and equity across the Waikato region.
Who may apply	Eligible community organisations operating for regional benefit.
Funding range	Varies by grant type.
Opening/closing dates	Check current online funding calendar.
Contact	07 838 2660
Success rates / records	Grant lists and annual reports are published.
Application insight	Demonstrate local relationships and how the proposal addresses inequity or strengthens community capacity.

Official website: https://trustwaikato.co.nz/grants-funding/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

24. BayTrust

Community trust | Bay of Plenty

Purpose	Supports Bay of Plenty communities, with priorities shaped by regional wellbeing and sustainability.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations and community initiatives.
Funding range	Varies by programme.
Opening/closing dates	Check current grant rounds.
Contact	07 578 6546
Success rates / records	Annual grants and reports are generally published.
Application insight	Link the proposal to BayTrust's current strategic outcomes and provide evidence of regional benefit.

Official website: https://www.baytrust.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

25. Toi Foundation

Community trust | Taranaki

Purpose	Invests in Taranaki communities, facilities, wellbeing and regional initiatives.
Who may apply	Eligible organisations serving Taranaki communities.
Funding range	Varies, including community grants and major investments.
Opening/closing dates	Check current funding information.
Contact	06 759 9470
Success rates / records	Annual reports and grant information are published.
Application insight	Demonstrate strong local benefit, governance and realistic delivery.

Official website: https://www.toifoundation.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

26. Eastern & Central Community Trust

Community trust | Hawke's Bay, Tairāwhiti, Wairarapa, Tararua and Manawatū

Purpose	Supports thriving communities through grants and strategic investment.
Who may apply	Eligible community organisations in the trust area.
Funding range	Varies by fund.
Opening/closing dates	Check current rounds and regional criteria.
Contact	06 878 7200
Success rates / records	Annual reports publish grant activity.
Application insight	Explain the geographic reach and use local data and partnerships.

Official website: https://www.ecct.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

27. Wellington Community Fund

Community trust | Wellington region

Purpose	Supports community-led change, equity and wellbeing across the Wellington region.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations operating in the region.
Funding range	Varies by programme and strategic investment.
Opening/closing dates	Check the current funding approach and deadlines.
Contact	04 499 4090
Success rates / records	Grant data and annual reports are available.
Application insight	Show how communities shape the work and how the project advances equity.

Official website: https://wellingtoncommunityfund.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

28. Nikau Foundation

Community foundation | Greater Wellington

Purpose	Connects donors with local causes and manages regional and thematic funds.
Who may apply	Eligibility depends on donor funds and grant rounds.
Funding range	Usually small to medium grants; vary by fund.
Opening/closing dates	Multiple funds with different dates.
Contact	04 974 4879
Success rates / records	Grant information varies by fund.
Application insight	Match the application to a specific named fund and its geographic or thematic purpose.

Official website: https://www.nikaufoundation.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

29. Acorn Foundation

Community foundation | Western Bay of Plenty

Purpose	Distributes donor and legacy funds to local community organisations.
Who may apply	Eligible local charities and not-for-profits.
Funding range	Varies by annual distribution and donor fund.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or fund-specific rounds.
Contact	07 579 9839
Success rates / records	Annual distributions and recipients are published.
Application insight	Maintain a strong community profile and submit concise evidence of local impact.

Official website: https://www.acornfoundation.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

30. Sunrise Foundation

Community foundation | Tairāwhiti/Gisborne

Purpose	Builds local endowment and supports community organisations in Tairāwhiti.
Who may apply	Eligible local charities and community organisations.
Funding range	Varies by available annual distributions.
Opening/closing dates	Check current grant round.
Contact	06 867 2647
Success rates / records	Recipients are generally announced.
Application insight	Make the local benefit unmistakable and provide a practical, proportionate budget.

Official website: https://sunrisefoundation.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

31. Momentum Waikato Community Foundation

Community foundation | Waikato

Purpose	Manages endowed and donor-advised funds for long-term Waikato community benefit.
Who may apply	Eligibility depends on fund purpose and grant opportunity.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Fund-specific.
Contact	07 834 0404
Success rates / records	Varies by donor fund.
Application insight	Build relationships and identify the specific fund that aligns with your work.

Official website: https://momentumwaikato.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

32. Top of the South Community Foundation

Community foundation | Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough

Purpose	Supports local causes through donor gifts and endowment income.
Who may apply	Local charitable organisations and initiatives.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current community grant opportunities.
Contact	info@topsouthfoundation.org.nz
Success rates / records	Varies.
Application insight	Emphasise lasting regional value and local partnerships.

Official website: https://www.topsouthfoundation.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

33. Otago Community Trust

Community trust | Otago

Purpose	Funds community initiatives, facilities, capability, arts, sport and wellbeing in Otago.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations serving Otago communities.
Funding range	Varies from small grants to significant capital and strategic support.
Opening/closing dates	Multiple rounds or rolling opportunities.
Contact	03 479 0994
Success rates / records	Annual grant lists and reports are published.
Application insight	Use regional evidence and explain how the project complements other services.

Official website: https://www.oct.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

34. Community Trust South

Community trust | Southland, Queenstown Lakes and Stewart Island/Rakiura

Purpose	Supports community wellbeing and regional initiatives.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations in the trust area.
Funding range	Varies by programme.
Opening/closing dates	Check current rounds.
Contact	03 218 2034
Success rates / records	Annual reports publish distributions.
Application insight	Show local demand, volunteer/community contribution and a realistic sustainability plan.

Official website: https://www.communitytrustsouth.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

35. Clutha Foundation

Community foundation | Clutha District

Purpose	Builds and distributes local charitable funds for Clutha communities.
Who may apply	Local organisations meeting fund criteria.
Funding range	Varies by annual distribution.
Opening/closing dates	Check current opportunities.
Contact	info@cluthafoundation.org.nz
Success rates / records	Recipients may be announced.
Application insight	Keep the request strongly local, practical and evidence based.

Official website: https://cluthafoundation.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

36. Advance Ashburton Community Foundation

Community foundation | Ashburton District

Purpose	Provides community grants from endowed and donor-directed funds.
Who may apply	Eligible local organisations.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Annual/fund-specific rounds.
Contact	03 307 5902
Success rates / records	Recipients are typically publicised.
Application insight	Explain who in Mid Canterbury benefits and how many people will be reached.

Official website: https://advanceashburton.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

37. New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT)

Gaming society | National, venue-dependent

Purpose	Distributes gaming proceeds to authorised community purposes, especially sport, community services and facilities.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations; applications generally need to benefit the area where funds are generated.
Funding range	Varies; equipment, operating and project grants are common.
Opening/closing dates	Monthly or scheduled meetings; local availability depends on gaming venues.
Contact	0800 44 69 28
Success rates / records	Grant decisions are published; success rates are not usually summarised.
Application insight	Check whether NZCT has a gaming venue in your area before applying and provide quotes and clear community benefit.

Official website: https://www.nzct.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

38. The Lion Foundation

Gaming society | National, venue-dependent

Purpose	Supports community, sport, health, education and cultural projects using gaming proceeds.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations, usually connected to an area with Lion Foundation gaming venues.
Funding range	Varies by local funds available and project type.
Opening/closing dates	Applications are considered regularly; dates vary.
Contact	09 488 9520
Success rates / records	Grant lists are published.
Application insight	Apply for specific costs, include current quotes and confirm local venue-generated funds.

Official website: https://www.lionfoundation.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

39. Pub Charity Limited

Gaming society | National, venue-dependent

Purpose	Distributes gaming grants for authorised community purposes.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations with local community benefit.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Regular grant rounds; check current meeting dates.
Contact	0800 426 464
Success rates / records	Grant decisions are publicly searchable.
Application insight	Use the funder's regional availability tool and keep the request directly tied to authorised purposes.

Official website: https://www.pubcharitylimited.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

40. Aotearoa Gaming Trust

Gaming society | National, venue-dependent

Purpose	Provides grants to community organisations from gaming machine proceeds.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profits with appropriate community purposes.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Regular meetings.
Contact	0800 426 464
Success rates / records	Grant lists are generally published.
Application insight	Confirm local funding availability and avoid unsupported estimates.

Official website: https://www.agt.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

41. Grassroots Trust

Gaming society | Selected regions

Purpose	Supports local sport and community organisations in areas where partner venues operate.
Who may apply	Eligible community and sporting organisations.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Regular rounds; region dependent.
Contact	07 834 2500
Success rates / records	Grant decisions are published.
Application insight	Demonstrate direct benefit to the local community where funds were generated.

Official website: https://www.grassrootstrust.co.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

42. Grassroots Trust Central

Gaming society | Central regions

Purpose	Distributes gaming grants to community and sporting purposes in eligible areas.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Regular meetings.
Contact	06 354 0498
Success rates / records	Grant lists are published.
Application insight	Check geographic eligibility and use detailed supplier quotes.

Official website: https://www.grassrootstrustcentral.co.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

43. Four Winds Foundation

Gaming society | Venue-dependent

Purpose	Provides community grants from gaming proceeds.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations serving relevant local communities.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Regular rounds.
Contact	09 414 6680
Success rates / records	Decisions may be published.
Application insight	Confirm that funding is available in your area and request eligible, clearly priced items.

Official website: https://www.fourwindsfoundation.co.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

44. BlueSky Community Trust

Gaming society | Venue-dependent

Purpose	Distributes gaming proceeds to community organisations.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Regular meetings.
Contact	0800 244 567
Success rates / records	Grant information may be published.
Application insight	Check local venue coverage and provide evidence of public benefit.

Official website: https://www.bluesky.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

45. One Foundation

Gaming society | Venue-dependent

Purpose	Supports community projects through gaming proceeds.
Who may apply	Eligible community organisations.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Regular rounds.
Contact	0800 426 464
Success rates / records	Grant decisions are available.
Application insight	Request practical costs and demonstrate local participation.

Official website: https://www.onefoundation.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

46. Mainland Foundation

Gaming society | Primarily South Island locations

Purpose	Provides gaming grants to community and sporting organisations.
Who may apply	Eligible not-for-profit organisations in areas with associated venues.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Regular rounds.
Contact	03 366 5170
Success rates / records	Grant decisions may be published.
Application insight	Strong option for Canterbury organisations where venue funding is available; verify local eligibility first.

Official website: https://www.mainlandfoundation.co.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

47. The Tindall Foundation

Philanthropic foundation | National

Purpose	Supports families, communities and environmental initiatives, often through regional donation managers and strategic partnerships.
Who may apply	Eligible charitable organisations; many small donations are accessed through local donation managers.
Funding range	Varies from local grants to strategic multi-year partnerships.
Opening/closing dates	Dates depend on donation manager or programme.
Contact	09 488 0170
Success rates / records	Annual reports describe giving; programme success rates are not generally published.
Application insight	Identify the correct donation manager and avoid sending an untargeted national application.

Official website: https://tindall.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

48. J R McKenzie Trust

Philanthropic trust | National

Purpose	Supports social justice, equity, community development and initiatives led by communities experiencing exclusion.
Who may apply	Eligible charitable organisations and community-led initiatives aligned with current strategy.
Funding range	Varies; often support capability and longer-term change.
Opening/closing dates	Check current funding approach and expressions of interest.
Contact	04 473 5250
Success rates / records	Annual reports publish grants and strategy.
Application insight	Show community leadership, power-sharing, equity and structural change rather than only service volume.

Official website: https://www.jrmckenzie.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

49. Todd Foundation

Philanthropic foundation | National

Purpose	Supports partnerships that improve outcomes for children, young people, families and communities.
Who may apply	Usually works through selected partnerships rather than broad open grants.
Funding range	Often multi-year strategic support.
Opening/closing dates	May not operate a general open application round.
Contact	info@toddfoundation.org.nz
Success rates / records	Partnership information is published.
Application insight	Do not submit a generic cold proposal; first confirm whether the foundation is seeking partners in your area.

Official website: https://www.toddfoundation.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

50. Hugh Green Foundation

Philanthropic foundation | National

Purpose	Supports community, health, education and social wellbeing initiatives.
Who may apply	Eligible registered charities and community organisations.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current application information.
Contact	09 520 1144
Success rates / records	Grant details may be summarised in annual reporting.
Application insight	Use a concise case for support and demonstrate governance and measurable benefit.

Official website: https://hgfoundation.co.nz/funding-application/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

51. Clare Foundation

Philanthropic foundation | National

Purpose	Supports initiatives improving wellbeing, equity and long-term outcomes in selected priority areas.
Who may apply	Eligibility and approach depend on current strategy; often relationship based.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current funding approach.
Contact	hello@clare.nz
Success rates / records	Not routinely published.
Application insight	Research the foundation's current portfolio before making contact.

Official website: https://clare.nz/giving/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

52. Simplicity Foundation

Corporate charitable foundation | National

Purpose	Supports charities and community organisations, funded through a share of Simplicity's management fees.
Who may apply	New Zealand charities aligned with current giving priorities.
Funding range	Varies; donations and partnerships.
Opening/closing dates	Check current application or nomination process.
Contact	Social media
Success rates / records	Recipients are announced.
Application insight	Demonstrate scalable social benefits and efficient use of funds.

Official website: https://simplicity.kiwi/about-us/our-foundation

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

53. ANZ Staff Foundation

Corporate foundation | National

Purpose	Employee-funded grants supporting community projects and charitable organisations.
Who may apply	Eligible New Zealand charities and community organisations.
Funding range	Generally small to medium community grants.
Opening/closing dates	Usually, one or more rounds annually.
Contact	stafffoundation@anz.com
Success rates / records	Recipients are often announced.
Application insight	A clear, practical request with visible community benefit is stronger than a broad organisational deficit request.

Official website: https://www.anz.co.nz/about-us/corporate-responsibility/community/staff-foundation/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

54. Spark Foundation

Corporate foundation | National

Purpose	Focuses on digital equity, technology access and initiatives that help all New Zealanders benefit from digital participation.
Who may apply	Eligible partners and organisations aligned with digital inclusion priorities.
Funding range	Partnership-dependent.
Opening/closing dates	May be strategic rather than open contestable funding.
Contact	sparkfoundation@spark.co.nz
Success rates / records	Partnerships and programmes are publicised.
Application insight	Proposals should include digital access, skills, safety and measurable participation outcomes.

Official website: https://www.spark.co.nz/online/about/sustainability/spark-foundation/funding?srsltid=AfmBOop_zLhrxOEvfo-PsBRsy3oHDUJI_NnED51gc8_6KP_2vRfuEhSg

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

55. Te Rourou – One Aotearoa Foundation

Corporate foundation | National

Purpose	Supports rangatahi, digital inclusion, wellbeing and community initiatives.
Who may apply	Eligibility depends on current programme and partnership priorities.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current opportunities.
Contact	terourou@one.nz
Success rates / records	Recipients and programmes are often published.
Application insight	Demonstrate youth voice, equity, digital access and community partnership.

Official website: https://one.nz/why-choose-us/te-rourou/?srsltid=AfmBOopxbtETOHNK44M9e6ZBcc_1VmXd32dKa-i49HXY4ZzRnaorfdTL

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

56. Z Energy – Good in the Hood

Corporate community programme | Local communities near participating Z stations

Purpose	Local giving programme where communities support selected neighborhood groups.
Who may apply	Local community organisations nominated and selected through participating sites.
Funding range	Varies by station and annual pool.
Opening/closing dates	Annual campaign cycle.
Contact	0800 474 355
Success rates / records	Local recipient results are publicised.
Application insight	Build local support and make your organisation visible to the community before the voting/allocation period.

Official website: https://www.z.co.nz/about-z/what-we-stand-for/community/good-in-the-hood

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

57. Fonterra Caring for Communities

Corporate fund | Selected dairy communities

Purpose	Supports local community projects in areas connected with Fonterra.
Who may apply	Eligible community organisations in qualifying regions.
Funding range	Typically, small to medium grants for practical community projects.
Opening/closing dates	Annual rounds may apply.
Contact	0800 65 65 68
Success rates / records	Recipients are often announced.
Application insight	Show direct rural/local community benefit and volunteer involvement.

Official website: https://www.fonterra.com/nz/en/sustainability/people/caring-for-communities.html

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

58. Air New Zealand Community Support

Corporate support | National

Purpose	Provides selected sponsorship, travel or partnership support aligned with community and sustainability priorities.
Who may apply	Eligibility depends on sponsorship and partnership criteria.
Funding range	In-kind or financial support varies.
Opening/closing dates	No universal open round.
Contact	sponsorship@airnz.co.nz
Success rates / records	Not applicable as a standard contestable fund.
Application insight	Make a specific, brand-aligned request and distinguish sponsorship value from a charitable donation.

Official website: https://www.airnewzealand.co.nz/sponsorship

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

59. Westpac NZ Sponsorship and Community

Corporate support | National

Purpose	Supports selected community partnerships, financial wellbeing and charitable initiatives.
Who may apply	Usually strategic partners; occasional campaigns or local support.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current programmes.
Contact	0800 400 600
Success rates / records	Partnerships are publicised.
Application insight	Approach only where your proposal clearly aligns with a current Westpac community priority.

Official website: https://www.westpac.co.nz/about-us/sustainability-community/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

60. BNZ Community Support

Corporate support | National

Purpose	Supports community initiatives, volunteering and selected partnerships.
Who may apply	Eligibility varies by programme.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current community pages.
Contact	0800 275 269
Success rates / records	Not routinely published.
Application insight	Consider employee volunteering and partnership value as well as cash funding.

Official website: https://www.bnz.co.nz/about-us/sustainability/people-and-communities

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

61. Perpetual Guardian Charitable Trusts

Trustee-managed philanthropy | National and regional

Purpose	Administers many charitable trusts with different geographic and thematic purposes.
Who may apply	Eligibility differs by individual trust.
Funding range	Varies widely.
Opening/closing dates	Each trust has its own dates and criteria.
Contact	0800 737 738
Success rates / records	Some trust decisions are public.
Application insight	Use the grant-seeker directory to identify the exact trust; never send one generic application to every trust.

Official website: https://www.perpetualguardian.co.nz/philanthropy/grant-seekers/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

62. Public Trust Charitable Grants

Trustee-managed philanthropy | National and regional

Purpose	Administers charitable trusts and estates that make grants to eligible community purposes.
Who may apply	Eligibility varies by trust deed.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Trust-specific.
Contact	0800 371 471
Success rates / records	Varies.
Application insight	Check geographic restrictions and trust purposes carefully.

Official website: https://www.publictrust.co.nz/grants/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

63. Christchurch City Council – Community Funding

Local government | Christchurch and Banks Peninsula

Purpose	Offers metropolitan, local, events, heritage, arts, sustainability and community grants through several programmes.
Who may apply	Community organisations, legal entities and eligible informal groups depending on the fund.
Funding range	From small neighborhood grants to substantial annual and multi-year support.
Opening/closing dates	Different funds have different rounds; check the live funding calendar.
Contact	03 941 8999
Success rates / records	Council decision reports often publish allocations.
Application insight	Choose the correct local or metropolitan fund, discuss major requests with a grants adviser and show benefit to Christchurch residents.

Official website: https://ccc.govt.nz/culture-and-community/community-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

64. Auckland Council – Grants and Community Support

Local government | Auckland

Purpose	Provides regional, local board, environmental, arts, events and community grants.
Who may apply	Eligibility varies by fund; community organisations, Māori entities, groups and individuals may be eligible for selected programmes.
Funding range	From small local grants to major regional investments.
Opening/closing dates	Multiple local board and regional rounds throughout the year.
Contact	09 301 0101
Success rates / records	Decision reports and grant allocations are public.
Application insight	Apply to the right local board, use Auckland Plan/local board priorities and avoid duplicating applications without explanation.

Official website: https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/grants-community-support-housing/grants/Pages/default.aspx

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

65. Wellington City Council – Funding

Local government | Wellington City

Purpose	Supports community, arts, culture, climate, heritage, events and social wellbeing.
Who may apply	Eligible local organisations, groups and projects.
Funding range	Varies by fund.
Opening/closing dates	Multiple annual rounds.
Contact	04 499 4444
Success rates / records	Council decisions are public.
Application insight	Tie outcomes to current council strategy and quantify benefit to Wellington residents.

Official website: https://wellington.govt.nz/community-support-and-resources/community-support/funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

66. Hamilton City Council – Community Funding

Local government | Hamilton

Purpose	Supports community wellbeing, events, arts and local initiatives.
Who may apply	Eligible Hamilton organisations and projects.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Scheduled rounds.
Contact	07 838 6699
Success rates / records	Allocations may be published in council papers.
Application insight	Show Hamilton-specific need and avoid costs outside the funding period.

Official website: https://hamilton.govt.nz/community-support-and-funding/community-funding/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

67. Dunedin City Council – Community funding and grants

Local government | Dunedin

Purpose	Funds community, arts, events, heritage, biodiversity and neighborhood initiatives.
Who may apply	Eligible local organisations and groups.
Funding range	Small to medium grants, with some larger funds.
Opening/closing dates	Multiple rounds.
Contact	03 477 4000
Success rates / records	Council decisions are public.
Application insight	Match your project to the exact fund and demonstrate community support and volunteer contribution.

Official website: https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/funding-and-grants/funding-and-grants

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

68. Tauranga City Council – Community Grants

Local government | Tauranga

Purpose	Supports community wellbeing, events and local initiatives.
Who may apply	Eligible community organisations and groups.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current rounds.
Contact	07 577 7000
Success rates / records	Decision information may be public.
Application insight	Use local evidence and explain how the project responds to Tauranga's growth and diverse communities.

Official website: https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/community/community-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

69. Palmerston North City Council – Community Funding

Local government | Palmerston North

Purpose	Supports community development, events, arts and social outcomes.
Who may apply	Eligible local organisations.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Multiple rounds or contracts.
Contact	06 356 8199
Success rates / records	Council allocations are public.
Application insight	Demonstrate local reach, inclusion and alignment with city priorities.

Official website: https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Community/Community-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

70. Nelson City Council – Community Funding

Local government/unitary | Nelson

Purpose	Supports community projects, events, arts and environmental outcomes.
Who may apply	Eligible local organisations and groups.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current rounds.
Contact	03 546 0200
Success rates / records	Council decisions may be published.
Application insight	Show Nelson-specific benefit and partnerships.

Official website: https://www.nelson.govt.nz/5community/3funding/community/community-investment-fund

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

71. Queenstown Lakes District Council – Community Funding

Local government | Queenstown Lakes

Purpose	Supports community associations, events, arts, wellbeing and district initiatives.
Who may apply	Eligible district organisations and groups.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Annual and targeted rounds.
Contact	03 441 0499
Success rates / records	Allocations are often published.
Application insight	Address seasonal population, geographic spread and long-term sustainability.

Official website: https://www.qldc.govt.nz/community/community-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

72. Selwyn District Council – Community Funding

Local government | Selwyn District

Purpose	Provides grants for community projects, events, facilities and local initiatives.
Who may apply	Eligible Selwyn organisations and groups.
Funding range	Small to medium grants; programme dependent.
Opening/closing dates	Multiple rounds.
Contact	03 347 2800
Success rates / records	Council decisions may be available.
Application insight	Demonstrate district benefit, volunteer contribution and support from the relevant local community.

Official website: https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/services/funding-And-grants/selwyn-community-fund

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

73. Waimakariri District Council – Community Funding

Local government | Waimakariri District

Purpose	Supports local community groups, events, youth and facilities.
Who may apply	Eligible local groups and organisations.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current rounds.
Contact	03 311 8900
Success rates / records	Allocations may be public.
Application insight	Be specific about which towns and communities' benefit.

Official website: https://www.waimakariri.govt.nz/community/funding-and-grants

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

74. Ashburton District Council – Grants and Funding

Local government | Ashburton District

Purpose	Provides community, biodiversity, heritage, events and recreation grants.
Who may apply	Eligible local organisations and groups.
Funding range	Varies by fund.
Opening/closing dates	Annual rounds.
Contact	03 307 7700
Success rates / records	Council reports publish decisions.
Application insight	Use clear local outcomes and include co-funding and quotes.

Official website: https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/ashburton-district/grants-and-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

75. Timaru District Council – Community Funding

Local government | Timaru District

Purpose	Supports local projects, facilities, events and community development.
Who may apply	Eligible local community organisations.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Check current rounds.
Contact	03 687 7200
Success rates / records	Allocations may be published.
Application insight	Show district-wide or clearly defined local impact.

Official website: https://www.timaru.govt.nz/community/community-and-culture/community-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

76. Invercargill City Council – Community Funding

Local government | Invercargill

Purpose	Supports community, events, arts, heritage and local wellbeing.
Who may apply	Eligible local organisations and projects.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Scheduled rounds.
Contact	03 211 1777
Success rates / records	Council decisions are public.
Application insight	Explain measurable benefits to Invercargill residents and how the project complements existing services.

Official website: https://www.icc.govt.nz/community/community-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

77. Gore District Council – Grants

Local government | Gore District

Purpose	Supports community initiatives and local events.
Who may apply	Eligible local groups.
Funding range	Generally small to medium grants.
Opening/closing dates	Annual/periodic rounds.
Contact	03 209 0330
Success rates / records	Allocations may be public.
Application insight	Keep the proposal practical and locally grounded.

Official website: https://www.goredc.govt.nz/council/grants-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

78. Marlborough District Council – Community Grants

Local government/unitary | Marlborough

Purpose	Supports community organisations, events, arts, heritage and environmental projects.
Who may apply	Eligible Marlborough organisations and groups.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Annual and targeted rounds.
Contact	03 520 7400
Success rates / records	Decisions may be published.
Application insight	Demonstrate regional reach and partnerships.

Official website: https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

79. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu – Funding and Grants

Iwi | Ngāi Tahu takiwā

Purpose	Offers selected grants, cultural, education, environmental and whānau support opportunities through Ngāi Tahu entities and funds.
Who may apply	Ngāi Tahu whānui, papatipu rūnanga and eligible organisations depending on programme.
Funding range	Varies by fund.
Opening/closing dates	Programme-specific.
Contact	0800 KAI TAHU
Success rates / records	Varies.
Application insight	Confirm whakapapa, geographic and programme eligibility before applying.

Official website: https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/opportunities-and-resources/for-whanau/te-kopa-ora/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

80. Māwai Hakona – Ngāi Tahu Fund

Iwi fund | Ngāi Tahu takiwā

Purpose	Supports Ngāi Tahu cultural revitalisation and identity initiatives.
Who may apply	Ngāi Tahu individuals, groups and organisations meeting fund criteria.
Funding range	Varies by grant category.
Opening/closing dates	Scheduled rounds.
Contact	0800 KAI TAHU
Success rates / records	Recipients may be announced.
Application insight	Clearly articulate cultural outcomes, participation and Ngāi Tahutanga.

Official website: https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/opportunities-and-resources/for-whanau/find-an-opportunity/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

81. Waikato-Tainui Grants

Iwi | Waikato-Tainui rohe

Purpose	Provides grants and support for tribal members, marae and development priorities.
Who may apply	Registered tribal members, marae and eligible entities depending on programme.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Programme-specific.
Contact	0800 TAINUI
Success rates / records	Varies.
Application insight	Verify registration and programme eligibility early.

Official website: https://waikatotainui.com/grants/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

82. Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board Grants

Iwi trust | Ngāti Tūwharetoa

Purpose	Supports cultural, educational, marae and community purposes.
Who may apply	Eligible iwi members and organisations depending on fund.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Scheduled rounds.
Contact	07 386 8832
Success rates / records	Varies.
Application insight	Provide evidence of iwi benefit and required endorsements.

Official website: https://www.tuwharetoa.co.nz/tag/grants/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

83. Te Arawa Lakes Trust Grants

Iwi trust | Te Arawa

Purpose	Supports environmental, cultural and whānau initiatives.
Who may apply	Eligible Arawa entities and beneficiaries depending on programme.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Programme-specific.
Contact	07 346 1761
Success rates / records	Varies.
Application insight	Confirm the correct Te Arawa entity and funding stream.

Official website: https://tearawa.io/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

84. Māori Women's Development Inc

Māori development | National

Purpose	Provides business loans, mentoring and support for Māori women and whānau enterprise.
Who may apply	Eligible Māori women and Māori-led enterprises.
Funding range	Loan and support amounts vary; not generally a grant programme.
Opening/closing dates	Applications may be ongoing.
Contact	04 910 3400
Success rates / records	Not applicable as a standard grant success rate.
Application insight	Prepare a credible business plan, cashflow and evidence of capability.

Official website: https://mwdi.co.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

85. Māori Education Trust

Charitable trust | National

Purpose	Provides scholarships and education grants for Māori learners.
Who may apply	Eligible Māori students meeting individual scholarship criteria.
Funding range	Varies by scholarship.
Opening/closing dates	Annual deadlines.
Contact	04 586 7971
Success rates / records	Scholarship numbers may be published.
Application insight	Apply early and ensure whakapapa, enrolment and supporting documents are complete.

Official website: https://maorieducation.org.nz/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

86. U.S. Embassy New Zealand – Grants

International/embassy | New Zealand

Purpose	Offers periodic small grants and public diplomacy funding for projects advancing shared priorities, education, culture and community engagement.
Who may apply	Eligible New Zealand organisations and institutions; criteria vary by notice of funding opportunity.
Funding range	Usually small to medium project grants in USD or NZD-equivalent.
Opening/closing dates	Calls are periodic, not continuous.
Contact	WellingtonPublicAffairs@state.gov
Success rates / records	Varies by call.
Application insight	Read the notice line by line, budget in the required currency and show a clear U.S.-New Zealand connection where required.

Official website: https://nz.usembassy.gov/grants-program-2026-niue-cook-islands/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

87. British Council New Zealand and Pacific

International cultural organisation | New Zealand/Pacific

Purpose	Supports cultural relations, education and arts partnerships through periodic programmes.
Who may apply	Eligibility varies by programme and partnership call.
Funding range	Varies.
Opening/closing dates	Periodic calls.
Contact	info@britishcouncil.org.nz
Success rates / records	Varies.
Application insight	Focus on mutual exchange and partnership, not one-way delivery.

Official website: https://www.britishcouncil.org.nz/programmes/arts/connections-through-culture-grants-2026

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

88. European Union Delegation – Calls for Proposals

International | Pacific/New Zealand relevant calls

Purpose	Provides thematic and regional grants through formal calls, especially for civil society, human rights, climate and development.
Who may apply	Eligibility is defined in each EU call and may require international partnerships.
Funding range	Often substantial, multi-year grants.
Opening/closing dates	Call-specific.
Contact	delegation-new-zealand@eeas.europa.eu
Success rates / records	Call results may be published.
Application insight	EU applications are technical; allow substantial lead time and follow all eligibility, co-financing and logical-framework requirements.

Official website: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/grants_en

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

89. United Nations Democracy Fund

United Nations | International

Purpose	Supports civil society projects strengthening democracy, participation, human rights and inclusion.
Who may apply	Civil society organisations meeting UNDEF criteria.
Funding range	Often up to US$100,000-$200,000 depending on call rules.
Opening/closing dates	Typically, annual global call.
Contact	democracyfund@un.org
Success rates / records	Highly competitive; global success rates are low.
Application insight	Propose a focused two-year project with measurable democratic participation outcomes and realistic international compliance.

Official website: https://www.un.org/democracyfund/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

90. UN Women Fund for Gender Equality / Calls

United Nations | International

Purpose	Supports gender equality and women's empowerment through periodic global or regional calls.
Who may apply	Women's rights and eligible civil society organisations; criteria vary.
Funding range	Varies, often substantial for multi-year initiatives.
Opening/closing dates	Call-specific.
Contact	https://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/civil-society
Success rates / records	Highly competitive.
Application insight	Ensure women-led governance, rights-based outcomes and strong monitoring.

Official website: https://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/civil-society

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

91. UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

United Nations | International

Purpose	Supports organisations provide direct assistance to victims of torture and their families.
Who may apply	Eligible civil society organisations deliver specialised direct services.
Funding range	Varies by annual call.
Opening/closing dates	Annual call.
Contact	ohchr-unvfvt@un.org
Success rates / records	Competitive; awards are published in aggregate.
Application insight	Evidence specialised in capability, safeguarding, confidentiality and direct beneficiary support.

Official website: https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/funding-and-budget/trust-funds/united-nations-voluntary-fund-victims-torture

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

92. Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme

International | Country-programme dependent

Purpose	Supports community-based environmental action through UNDP-managed small grants in eligible countries.
Who may apply	Civil society and community organisations in participating countries; New Zealand eligibility may be limited, but Pacific partnerships can be relevant.
Funding range	Typically, up to US$50,000, with strategic projects sometimes higher.
Opening/closing dates	Country-specific calls.
Contact	sgp.info@undp.org
Success rates / records	Competitive.
Application insight	Confirm country's eligibility before investing time; strong community ownership is essential.

Official website: https://sgp.undp.org/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

93. Rotary Foundation Global Grants

International service foundation | International

Purpose	Supports sustainable, measurable projects in Rotary's areas of focus, usually through Rotary club partnerships.
Who may apply	Rotary clubs/districts partnering with eligible organisations and communities.
Funding range	Global grants generally start at US$30,000 total project budget.
Opening/closing dates	Applications can often be made throughout the year.
Contact	Contact a local Rotary club
Success rates / records	Varies by district and proposal quality.
Application insight	Secure a committed host and international Rotary partner and build evaluation and sustainability into the project.

Official website: https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/grants

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

94. Lions Clubs International Foundation

International service foundation | International

Purpose	Provides grants for humanitarian, disaster, health and community projects through Lions districts and clubs.
Who may apply	Lions' districts/clubs; community organisations usually need a Lions partnership.
Funding range	Varies by grant type.
Opening/closing dates	Programme-specific.
Contact	Contact local Lions district
Success rates / records	Varies.
Application insight	Engage a Lions club early and match the project to a specific LCIF grant category.

Official website: https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/grant-types

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

95. Commonwealth Foundation Grants

International | Commonwealth countries

Purpose	Supports civil society's participation in governance and policy processes across Commonwealth member countries.
Who may apply	Eligible civil society organisations in participating Commonwealth countries; call rules apply.
Funding range	Multi-year grants, often up to approximately £30,000 per year depending on call.
Opening/closing dates	Periodic global calls.
Contact	grants@commonwealth.int
Success rates / records	Highly competitive.
Application insight	Strong applications show policy influence, civil society voice and cross-sector engagement rather than only service delivery.

Official website: https://commonwealthfoundation.com/grants/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

96. Rotorua Lakes Council – Community Grants

Local government | Rotorua Lakes

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/community/grants-and-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

97. Napier City Council – Community Grants

Local government | Napier City

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.napier.govt.nz/napier/grants/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

98. Hastings District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Hastings

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/hastings/grants/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

99. New Plymouth District Council – Community Grants

Local government | New Plymouth

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.npdc.govt.nz/community/community-development/funding-and-grants/community-services-and-programmes-grant/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

100. Whanganui District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Whanganui

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/Community-and-Places/Funding-Opportunities

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

101. Whangārei District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Whangārei

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Community/Community-Funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

102. Far North District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Far North

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.fndc.govt.nz/District/Funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

103. Kaipara District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Kaipara

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.kaipara.govt.nz/funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

104. Porirua City Council – Community Grants

Local government | Porirua City

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://poriruacity.govt.nz/services/community-support/porirua-funding-finder/ - https://grantguru.com/nz/porirua

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

105. Hutt City Council – Community Grants

Local government | Hutt City

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.huttcity.govt.nz/people-and-communities/community-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

106. Upper Hutt City Council – Community Grants

Local government | Upper Hutt City

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/community/Grants-and-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

107. Kapiti Coast District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Kapiti Coast

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/services/grants-and-funding/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

108. Horowhenua District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Horowhenua

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/CommunityPlaces/Grants-Community-Funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

109. South Wairarapa District Council – Community Grants

Local government | South Wairarapa

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://swdc.govt.nz/community/grants/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

110. Masterton District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Masterton

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://mstn.govt.nz/community/community-grants/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

111. Carterton District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Carterton

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://cdc.govt.nz/?s=funding+and+grants

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

112. Tasman District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Tasman

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-community/grants-and-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

113. Grey District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Grey

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.greydc.govt.nz/03your-community/grants-and-funding

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

114. Westland District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Westland

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/community-support-and-resources/community-grants/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

115. Buller District Council – Community Grants

Local government | Buller

Purpose	Provides local community grants, events support and/or targeted funding. Specific programmes and availability change by council year.
Who may apply	Local community organisations, groups and eligible projects; legal status requirements vary by fund.
Funding range	Usually small to medium-sized grants; check the current council guide.
Opening/closing dates	Annual or periodic rounds; use the live council page.
Contact	Contact the council customer service or grants team
Success rates / records	Council agendas and decision reports may publish allocations; success-rate percentages are rarely published.
Application insight	Read the current policy, use local evidence and ask the council grants adviser to confirm the correct fund.

Official website: https://bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/community-funding/community-grants/

Verification notes: Dates, eligibility and available budgets can change. Confirm all details on the official website immediately before applying.

Part 7 – National Council Directory

New Zealand councils frequently operate community, events, arts, heritage, environmental, youth, local board or neighborhood funds. The following directory is designed as a search checklist. Open the council website and search for “community grants”, “funding”, “creative communities” and “events funding”.

Official national council website directory: https://www.lgnz.co.nz/local-government-in-nz/councils-in-aotearoa/council-websites-and-maps/

Part 8 – Templates and Checklists

8.1 One-Page Project Concept

Item	Organisation response	Complete
Project title		☐
Lead organisation		☐
Problem/need		☐
Primary beneficiaries		☐
Proposed solution		☐
Three key activities		☐
Expected outputs		☐
Expected outcomes		☐
Project period		☐
Total budget		☐
Amount requested		☐
Potential partners		☐
Top three risks		☐

8.2 Funder Fit Checklist

Item	Organisation response	Complete
The applicant is eligible		☐
The project location is eligible		☐
The costs are eligible		☐
The timing fits the round		☐
The requested amount is realistic		☐
The project advances as a stated priority		☐
Required approvals are available		☐
Reporting capacity exists		☐
No conflict with another application		☐

8.3 Board Approval Checklist

Item	Organisation response	Complete
Board has reviewed the final application		☐
Conflicts of interest recorded		☐
Application amount approved		☐
Authorised signatory confirmed		☐
Budget approved		☐
Organisation can meet co-funding requirement		☐
Reporting responsibility assigned		☐
Asset ownership and insurance agreed		☐

8.4 Supporting Documents Checklist

Item	Organisation response	Complete
Constitution or trust deed		☐
Charities Services registration		☐
Certificate of incorporation		☐
Officer list		☐
Recent financial statements		☐
Current annual budget		☐
Bank deposit slip or verified account		☐
Quotes		☐
Project plan		☐
Risk assessment		☐
Letters of support		☐
Policies and insurance evidence		☐

8.5 Basic Project Budget

Item	Organisation response	Complete
Personnel/contractors		☐
Venue		☐
Equipment		☐
Materials		☐
Travel/transport		☐
Communications		☐
Accessibility		☐
Catering		☐
Evaluation		☐
Insurance/consents		☐
Administration		☐
Contingency		☐
Total expenditure		☐
Confirmed income		☐
Pending income		☐
Amount requested		☐

8.6 Outcome Measurement Plan

Item	Organisation response	Complete
Outcome statement		☐
Indicator		☐
Baseline		☐
Target		☐
Data source		☐
Collection frequency		☐
Responsible person		☐
How findings will be used		☐

8.7 Risk Register

Item	Organisation response	Complete
Risk		☐
Likelihood		☐
Impact		☐
Controls		☐
Owner		☐
Trigger for escalation		☐
Residual risk		☐

8.8 Funding Tracker

Item	Organisation response	Complete
Funder		☐
Programme		☐
Contact		☐
Opening date		☐
Closing date		☐
Amount requested		☐
Status		☐
Decision date		☐
Report due		☐
Notes		☐

8.9 Application Review Questions

Item	Organisation response	Complete
Is the need evidenced?		☐
Can a stranger understand the project quickly?		☐
Are beneficiaries specific?		☐
Are activities linked to outcomes?		☐
Does the budget add up?		☐
Are quotes current?		☐
Are claims accurate?		☐
Are risks addressed?		☐
Does the application match the fund?		☐
Has an independent reviewer checked it?		☐

8.10 Post-Decision Actions

Item	Organisation response	Complete
If approved: confirm conditions, coding, communications, monitoring and report dates		☐
If partly approved: revise scope and budget before accepting		☐
If declined: request feedback, record lessons and decide whether to reapply		☐
Thank partners and keep them informed regardless of outcome		☐

Sample Need Statement

In the past 12 months, our service received 186 enquiries from newly arrived families seeking help to understand local health, education and employment systems. Forty-two percent required repeat support because language barriers and fragmented information prevented them from completing referrals independently. Community consultation with 37 families and six local providers identified a need for trusted, bilingual navigation delivered in familiar community settings.

Sample Outcome Statement

By the end of the 10-month project, at least 120 participants will be able to identify and independently access three relevant local services. We will measure this through a pre/post confidence question, referral follow-up at six weeks and a record of successful service connections.

Sample Sustainability Statement

The project will produce a reusable bilingual resource, train twelve volunteer navigators and establish a referral protocol with three local agencies. After the funded period, the organisation will integrate monthly navigation clinics into its existing volunteer programme and seek a mix of council, philanthropic and partner contributions for specialist coordination.

Sample Value-for-Money Statement

The $24,800 request will deliver 18 group sessions, 120 individual follow-ups and a reusable resource. Partner venues are provided at no cost and trained volunteers will contribute an estimated 420 hours. The average requested cost is approximately $207 per directly supported participant, excluding the longer-term value of the resource and referral partnerships.

Sample Risk Statement

The main delivery risk is lower participation because some families may be reluctant to share personal information. We will use trusted community connectors, collect only necessary information, offer women-only and language-specific sessions where required, and monitor registrations two weeks before each session so outreach can be adjusted early.

Why it works: It is specific, evidenced, proportionate and avoids inflated claims.

Common Mistakes That Cause Applications to Fail

- Applying to a fund that does not cover the applicant, location, cost or timing.
- Describing an event or activity without demonstrating a real need.
- Using broad claims such as “everyone will benefit” without numbers or evidence.
- Submitting a budget that does not match the narrative or request amount.
- Requesting costs already incurred before the decision date.
- Relying on a single person with no governance oversight or succession plan.
- Naming partners who have not agreed to participate.

- Ignoring accessibility, safeguarding, privacy or health and safety.
- Copying the same application to multiple funders without tailoring it.
- Hiding deficits, disputes or previous grant problems instead of explaining them.
- Promising unrealistic outcomes that cannot be measured.
- Missing the deadline for submitting incomplete attachments.
- Treating cultural language as a slogan without showing relationships or practice.
- Failing to report on previous grants on time.

Part 9 – Glossary and Source Notes

Authorised purpose: A purpose permitted under gambling law and the relevant society's grant policy.

Co-funding: Money or in-kind support contributed by the applicant or another funder.

Contestable fund: A funding pool where eligible applications compete for limited money.

Direct cost: A cost directly attributable to the project.

In-kind contribution: Non-cash support such as volunteer time, donated venue or professional services.

Legal entity: An organisation recognised in law, such as an incorporated society, charitable trust or company.

Multi-year funding: Funding approved for more than one year, usually subject to conditions and reporting.

Outcome: A change in knowledge, behaviour, condition, connection or wellbeing.

Output: A countable product or service delivered.

Retrospective cost: A cost incurred before a funder approves the grant; commonly ineligible.

Umbrella organisation: A legal entity that receives and administers funding on behalf of an informal group.

Unrestricted funding: Funding the organisation may use broadly for its charitable purposes, subject to any agreement.

Principal Sources

Community Matters funding portal: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/

DIA 2026/27 funding calendar: https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/important-dia-funding-dates

LGNZ council website directory: https://www.lgnz.co.nz/local-government-in-nz/councils-in-aotearoa/council-websites-and-maps/

DIA guidance on gaming grants: https://www.dia.govt.nz/Services-Casino-and-Non-Casino-Gaming-Funding-For-Community-Groups

Individual funder official websites: Listed in each profile

About the Author

Habib Marwat, QSM is a New Zealand public servant, community leader, and advocate with more than two decades of experience working alongside diverse communities across Aotearoa New Zealand. Throughout his career in the New Zealand Public Service, he has worked closely with government agencies, local authorities, funding organisations, Tangata Whenua, refugees, immigrants and community groups to strengthen partnerships, improve community outcomes, and support inclusive decision-making.

Beyond his professional roles, Habib has dedicated thousands of voluntary hours to serving New Zealand's ethnic, faith, and cultural communities. He has supported community organisations in governance, strategic planning, leadership development, project delivery, and navigating government systems. Over the years, he has witnessed both the extraordinary commitment of community volunteers and the challenges many organisations face in accessing the funding they need to sustain their valuable work.

His service to New Zealand has been recognised through several honours, including the **Queen's Service Medal (QSM)** for services to ethnic and faith communities and the **New Zealander of the Year, Local Hero Award (2024)**.

Habib believes that strong communities are built by dedicated people, not by large budgets alone. When volunteers are equipped with the right knowledge, confidence, and resources, they can create lasting positive change for future generations.

This handbook is the culmination of years of practical experience, learning, and engagement with community organisations across New Zealand. It has been written with one simple goal: **to make community funding easier to understand, more accessible, and less intimidating for every organisation, regardless of its size, experience, or background.**

If this handbook helps even one organisation continue serving its community, it will have achieved its purpose.

A Personal message

Every successful community organisation begins with people who care.

Behind every cultural festival, language class, youth programme, food bank, refugee support initiative, interfaith event, sports club, or wellbeing project are volunteers who quietly give their evenings, weekends, and energy to improve the lives of others. Their work often goes unseen, yet its impact reaches countless families and strengthens communities across New Zealand.

Over many years, I have met hundreds of dedicated community leaders. While their cultures, languages, and traditions differ, they often share the same challenge: finding sustainable funding and navigating what can seem like a complex and overwhelming process.

This handbook was written for you.

My hope is that it gives you the confidence to pursue funding opportunities, avoid common mistakes, and spend less time searching for information and more time making a difference in your community.

No handbook can answer every question, and funding programmes will continue to evolve. If you identify any errors, outdated information, or opportunities to improve future editions, I would sincerely appreciate hearing from you.

Together, we can make this resource even more valuable for the communities we serve.

Habib Marwat, QSM

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May your work continue to inspire hope, strengthen communities, and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.